

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 11/14/06, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room

Minutes taken by Erik Moore and Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Ed Starr, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Laura Wiener (partial), Lieut. James McHugh, Chuck Pappas, Howard Muise, Erik Moore, Scott Smith, Joe Cahill, Mike Rademacher, Allan McEwen (Fire Dept.)

Minutes amended at meeting of December 12, 2006

1. Public Comments. Ken Barney of Marathon Street spoke of his concern about cut through traffic between Mass. Ave. and Broadway. It was explained that he should contact the Board of Selectmen.
Vitail Vinokour, who had sent correspondence about the Mill and Water Street access road, was informed that because it was a new issue it could not be placed on the agenda tonight.
2. Webster Street Parking. Scott outlined resident complaints: street is too tight, driveway access is difficult, spillover parking in the neighborhood from commercial uses, and time limited parking doesn't seem to help. Similar issues plague other narrow residential streets, in the area and around Arlington. Webster Street appears to be 24' wide, which is less than average. Need to do some neighborhood outreach. Discussed time limited and one side parking, for Palmer in particular. Two issues: school day parking, and narrow width.
3. Parking Policies. Town bylaw requires 10' width for right of way, but "Mass. Drivers' Manual" recommends 12' width. Parking too close to driveways also creates problems for residents. Looking for a solution that is fair, equitable and doesn't compromise public safety. Tools include bylaw that restricts parking in certain locations (needs enforcement), overnight parking ban, restricting parking to one side of the street, time limits on parking, no parking at a specific time of day, parking meters, Parking Demand Management for businesses, schools, and residents, additional enforcement and education on current laws. Discussion of minimum street widths for parking on both sides of street. Need feedback from Fire Chief about width needed for emergency vehicles. Will consider Franklin, Palmer, and Webster. Process—some thought that 2/3 support from neighbors ought to be required for changes except in cases where public safety is a concern.
Motion: For public safety reasons, recommend restricting parking to one side on Palmer between Mass. Ave. and Broadway, Webster between Warren and Broadway, and Franklin from Broadway to #85, side of street to be determined by Departments of Public Works and Public Safety. Approved unanimously. May want to get more feedback from abutters as time goes on.
4. Administration.
 - Minutes of 10/17/06 meeting were approved unanimously
 - E-mails from Town Manager received.
 - Active projects list—Warren and Franklin crosswalk was added
 - Meeting dates for 2007 set, continue with Tuesdays.
 - Outstanding Voted Actions
 - Library Way—vegetation cutback doesn't seem significant, so keep on list.

- January meeting might be a social. 1/16/07.
5. Lockeland and Mass. Ave. Maintain lane drop in existing location. Add a white edge line along Mass. Ave. westbound, from eastern High School entrance to Highland Ave. Add a solid white edge line along Mass. Ave. eastbound, from Highland to Bartlett. TAC to work with DPW to determine width of line.
Motion to approve: voted unanimously.
 6. Westminster accident. Jim described. Elisabeth suggested we look at speeds there again. Jim said that they have averaged 30 miles per hour.
 7. Green Line Extension. Laura presented summary. In permitting phase, proposed extension of the Green Line from Lechmere to Medford. Currently proposed terminus is at Medford Hillside (Boston Ave. near Tufts) or Winthrop Street and Boston Ave. Medford Green Line Neighborhood Alliance has suggested a terminus at Mystic Valley Parkway (Route 16) and Boston Ave., which serves Arlington much better. Proposed DCR bike and pedestrian path will wind along Mystic River and ultimately connect to Boston Avenue, giving that location good connectivity. Laura suggested that TAC send a letter to MEPA/EOEA endorsing terminus at Mystic River, and also requesting Arlington be included in planning process. Laura will draft, send to Scott for input, then Ed for approval and signature. Ed will run it by Jack Hurd as well. Laura send to Reps. Brownsberger and Marzilli, Town Manager.
Motion to send a letter providing comments. Voted unanimously.
 8. Downing Square. Preliminary tally of responses to survey regarding changes to Westminster one-way traffic pattern: 33% in favor, 53% opposed. Issues mentioned were Westminster speeding, ice on Westmoreland, Lowell traffic volume, church and school parking. Town Manager has proposed some land taking to decrease streets coming into the square—combining Bow and Lowell eastbound, and Lowell and Westminster westbound.
 9. Safe Routes to School. Mike reported that he has not yet met with Bishop principal. Superintendent of School is looking for our help, in view of 2 recent student pedestrian accidents. TAC could redirect efforts toward Ottoson, if schools support that. Ed will send an e-mail to Superintendent. .
 10. Irving/Pleasant Streets. BSC has been asked to study. Awaiting their report.
 11. Lieutenant Jim McHugh announced his retirement. Richard McLaughlin will replace him on TAC for now.
 12. Meeting adjourned at 10:05.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package:

Agenda, E-mail from Brian Sullivan regarding Overnight Parking, TAC Projects, 2007 Meeting Dates, Outstanding Voted Actions

Laura – Minutes from 10/17/06 Meeting, Green Line Extension Summary

Elisabeth – Preliminary Westminster One Way Proposal Survey Responses (11/14/06)

Scott – Webster and Franklin Findings, Draft Parking Policy Recommendations, Excerpts from Christchurch, New Zealand Parking Strategy

